

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 181764
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DPW-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /073 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK
APPROVED BY D/HA/PW:FASIEVERTS
AF:RMMOOSE
IO/HR:FCRAWFORD
D/HA:OJONES

-----062207 031342Z /42

P R 031323Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181764

E.O. 11652:XGDS-3

TAGS: SHUM, GV

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ICRC VISIT TO GUINEA

REF: STATE 177092 (NOTAL)

1. WHILE IN WASHINGTON DURING HIS RECENT VISIT, THE
PRIME MINISTER OF GUINEA EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR BETTER
RELATIONS WITH THE US AND, IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CONCERN
ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, OFFERED TO RECEIVE A DELEGATION "TO
OBSERVE THE HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF THE REGIME."

2. THIS STATEMENT CONTRASTS WITH GUINEA'S TRADITIONAL
POSITION ON HUMANITARIAN DELEGATIONS. GUINEA HAS REBUFFED
PAST EFFORTS BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED
CROSS (ICRC) IN GENEVA TO ARRANGE VISITS TO DETAINEES IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 181764

GUINEA. JUSTIFYING ITS ACTION ON SECURITY GROUNDS, THE
GUINEAN GOVERNMENT LABELED A RECENT LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
REPORT TO THE UN, WHICH ALLEGES A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN GUINEA, AS THE WORK OF WESTERN
INTELLIGENCE AGENTS AND A SLANDER OF GUINEA BY ITS ENEMIES.

3. IN AN EFFORT TO FOLLOW UP ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S MORE

FORTHCOMING STATEMENT, WE WISH TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTING ICRC TO OBTAIN GOG AGREEMENT FOR ICRC DELEGATION TO VISIT DETAINEES, WHICH IS ICRC'S TRADITIONAL WAY OF OBSERVING THE HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF A REGIME." ICRC DOES NOT PUBLICIZE ITS VISITS (EXCEPT TO ANNOUNCE THEY HAVE TAKEN PLACE) AND SUBMITS REPORTS ON ITS FINDINGS ONLY TO THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNED. ICRC DOES HOWEVER INSIST ON SEEING DETAINEES OF ITS CHOICE, AND ON INTERVIEWING THEM WITHOUT WITNESSES. WE BELIEVE THAT ICRC WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO GUINEA THEN ILHR, WHICH HAS ALREADY SUBMITTED REPORT, AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. WE HAVE ALREADY INFORMALLY DISCUSSED WITH ICRC THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT AND THEY HAVE INDICATED AN INTEREST.

FOR CONAKRY:

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON PROSPECTS -FOR APPROACH TO GOG, BASED ON PRIME MINISTER'S OFFER, TO INQUIRE IF GOG IS IN FACT PREPARED TO ACCEPT ICRC DELEGATION IN ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE OF VISITING DETAINEES.

FOR GENEVA AND CONAKRY:

4. AFTER RECEIVING CONAKRY'S COMMENTS DEPARTMENT PLANS TO INSTRUCT GENEVA TO DISCUSS THIS IN CONFIDENCE WITH ICRC TO SEE IF THEY WOULD LIKE USG TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE AN ICRC VISIT, OR WHETHER THEY WOULD RECOMMEND ANOTHER COURSE OF ACTION, SUCH AS SENDING THEIR OWN INQUIRY TO GOG. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 181764

(WE TEND TO DOUBT THIS WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN ABSENCE OF

US EFFORT BASED ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFER).

5. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ICRC VISITS DO NOT COVER WHOLE RANGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN A COUNTRY, BUT CONSIST PRIMARILY OF ACTUAL VISITS TO PRISONERS AT THEIR PLACES OF DETENTION. ICRC HAS RECENTLY UNDERTAKEN A BROAD PROGRAM FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA UNDER WHICH THEY ARE VISITING PRISONS IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, OFTEN TO BRING FOOD AND MEDICINE TO DETAINEES, AND TO THEIR FAMILIES. THUS ICRC'S AFRICAN VISITS TEND TO SERVE A BROADER HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE AS WELL, BUT THEY DO NOT NORMALLY LEND THEMSELVES TO INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS GENERALLY. ICRC VISITS DO HOWEVER TEND TO SYMBOLIZE A GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AT LEAST SOME DEGREE OF INTERNATIONAL OVERSIGHT, AND THEY OFTEN HAVE A WIDER IMPACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS THAN THE PRISON VISIT ITSELF WOULD INDICATE. CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 181764
ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 DHA-02 /009 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: AF/W: BSKIRKPATRICK: TIW
APPROVED BY: D/HA: FSIEVERTS
IO/HR:FCRAWFORD

-----045454 090958Z /14

R 090450Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7605

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181764

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 181764 ACTION CONAKRY INFO GENEVA AUGUST 03.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181764

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SHUM, GV

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ICRC VISIT TO GUINEA

REF: STATE 177092 (NOTAL)

1. WHILE IN WASHINGTON DURING HIS RECENT VISIT, THE
PRIME MINISTER OF GUINEA EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR BETTER
RELATIONS WITH THE US AND, IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CONCERN
ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, OFFERED TO RECEIVE A DELEGATION "TO
OBSERVE THE HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF THE REGIME."

2. THIS STATEMENT CONTRASTS WITH GUINEA'S TRADITIONAL
POSITION ON HUMANITARIAN DELEGATIONS. GUINEA HAS REBUFFED
PAST EFFORTS BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED
CROSS (ICRC) IN GENEVA TO ARRANGE VISITS TO DETAINEES IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 181764

GUINEA. JUSTIFYING ITS ACTION ON SECURITY GROUNDS, THE
GUINEAN GOVERNMENT LABELED A RECENT LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

REPORT TO THE UN, WHICH ALLEGES A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN GUINEA, AS THE WORK OF WESTERN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS AND A SLANDER OF GUINEA BY ITS ENEMIES.

3. IN AN EFFORT TO FOLLOW UP ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S MORE FORTHCOMING STATEMENT, WE WISH TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTING ICRC TO OBTAIN GOG AGREEMENT FOR ICRC DELEGATION TO VISIT DETAINEES, WHICH IS ICRC'S TRADITIONAL WAY OF OBSERVING THE HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF A REGIME." ICRC DOES NOT PUBLICIZE ITS VISITS (EXCEPT TO ANNOUNCE THEY HAVE TAKEN PLACE) AND SUBMITS REPORTS ON ITS FINDINGS ONLY TO THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNED. ICRC DOES HOWEVER INSIST ON SEEING DETAINEES OF ITS CHOICE, AND ON INTERVIEWING THEM WITHOUT WITNESSES. WE BELIEVE THAT ICRC WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO GUINEA THEN ILHR, WHICH HAS ALREADY SUBMITTED REPORT, AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. WE HAVE ALREADY INFORMALLY DISCUSSED WITH ICRC THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT AND THEY HAVE INDICATED AN INTEREST.

FOR CONAKRY:

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON PROSPECTS -FOR APPROACH TO GOG, BASED ON PRIME MINISTER'S OFFER, TO INQUIRE IF GOG IS IN FACT PREPARED TO ACCEPT ICRC DELEGATION IN ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE OF VISITING DETAINEES.

FOR GENEVA AND CONAKRY:

4. AFTER RECEIVING CONAKRY'S COMMENTS DEPARTMENT PLANS TO INSTRUCT GENEVA TO DISCUSS THIS IN CONFIDENCE WITH ICRC TO SEE IF THEY WOULD LIKE USG TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE AN ICRC VISIT, OR WHETHER THEY WOULD RECOMMEND ANOTHER COURSE OF ACTION, SUCH AS SENDING THEIR OWN INQUIRY TO GOG. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 181764

(WE TEND TO DOUBT THIS WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN ABSENCE OF

US EFFORT BASED ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFER).

5. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ICRC VISITS DO NOT COVER WHOLE RANGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN A COUNTRY, BUT CONSIST PRIMARILY OF ACTUAL VISITS TO PRISONERS AT THEIR PLACES OF DETENTION. ICRC HAS RECENTLY UNDERTAKEN A BROAD PROGRAM FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA UNDER WHICH THEY ARE VISITING PRISONS IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, OFTEN TO BRING FOOD AND MEDICINE TO DETAINEES, AND TO THEIR FAMILIES. THUS ICRC'S AFRICAN VISITS TEND TO SERVE A BROADER HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE AS WELL, BUT THEY DO NOT NORMALLY LEND THEMSELVES TO INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS GENERALLY. ICRC VISITS DO HOWEVER TEND TO SYMBOLIZE A GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AT LEAST SOME DEGREE OF INTERNATIONAL OVERSIGHT, AND THEY OFTEN HAVE A WIDER IMPACT ON HUMAN

RIGHTS CONDITIONS THAN THE PRISON VISIT ITSELF WOULD
INDICATE. CHRISTOPHER
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE181764
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BSKIRKPATRICK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770278-0128
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708100/aaaadhoe.tel
Line Count: 227
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 08b88c4e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 177092
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1401828
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE ICRC VISIT TO GUINEA
TAGS: SHUM, OTRA, GV, ICRC
To: CONAKRY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/08b88c4e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009